

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. Canceled.
2. (Currently amended) ~~The process in of Claim 1 wherein step (c) further comprises attaching the feed line to the coker vessel at a side entry position~~ A process for repetitively producing and removing coke from a delayed coker vessel, wherein the coker vessel has a bottom portion defining an aperture through which coke is released, comprising:
  - (a) Sealing an aperture closure housing to the bottom portion of the coker vessel;
  - (b) moving a closure member within the closure housing to close the aperture;
  - (c) feeding a heavy hydrocarbon feed into the coker vessel through a feed line attached to the coker vessel at a side entry position above the bottom of the coker vessel;
  - (d) coking the heavy hydrocarbon in the coker vessel;
  - (e) moving the closure member within the closure housing to open the aperture to allow coke removal from the coker vessel; and
  - (f) releasing coke through the aperture, and;
  - (g) repeating steps b through f successively.

3. (Currently amended) The process in of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2 wherein step (a) further comprises sealing a transition spool piece to the coker vessel bottom and attaching the feed line to the spool piece at a side entry position.
- 4 – 5. Canceled
6. (Currently amended ) The process of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2 wherein step (a) further comprises sealing a coke chute to the bottom portion of the aperture closure housing.
7. Canceled.
8. (Currently amended) The process of ~~Claim 2~~ Claim 6 wherein step (a) further comprises placing a gasket between the bottom of the closure unit and the coke chute and pressure-tightly joining the closure unit, the gasket and the coke chute.
9. The process of Claim ~~7~~ or 8 wherein the gasket comprises an annular corrugated metal bonded to a graphite material.
10. – 18. Canceled.
19. (Withdrawn) A coker vessel comprising:
  - (a) a vessel having a flanged side aperture and a flanged bottom aperture;
  - (b) a flanged feed pipe fitted to said flanged side aperture;
  - (c) an aperture closure unit fitted and sealed to said bottom aperture;
  - (d) a closure member moveable within said closure unit;

- (e) A coke chute sealed to the bottom portion of the closure unit for directing coke from the vessel to a receiving area.
- 20. (Withdrawn) The coker vessel of Claim 19 wherein the closure member comprises a valve.
- 21. (Withdrawn) The coker vessel of Claim 20 wherein the valve is a gate valve, a ball valve, a slide valve, a knife valve or a wedge plug valve.
- 22. (Withdrawn) The coker vessel of Claim 20 wherein the valve further comprises a power actuated valve.
- 23. (Withdrawn) The coker vessel of Claim 20 wherein the bottom aperture is from 30 to 90 inches.